

ON SCREEN

# Sequel preceded by hype

BY ROY GREEN  
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The hype surrounding the new Star Wars movie has become so, well, hyperactive that even creator George Lucas is concerned.

"Expectations are so high that no matter what, for some people, we'll never make it," Lucas told Time in a front-page story in the magazine this week.

There is talk of potential ticket-scalping for the \$115-million prequel, Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace, which opens in more than 2,500 theatres on Wednesday, May 19.

20th Century Fox and Lucasfilm announced last week that tickets will be made available May 12 at 3 p.m. and, to discourage scalping, will be limited to 12 tickets per customer.

And no where is the hype more evident than on the Internet. Even though Lucasfilm battled to shut down sites claiming to have the full plot and dialogue from the new film, there are still hundreds of sites, all of them dealing with things Lucasian.

Type in "Star Wars" on a search engine and you'll find things like:

"The Star of Alderaan — Originally conceived to battle Lucasfilm's shut-down of fan sites, this rebel band has reformed to battle Net plagiarism."

"Solocam — For those of us who can't afford the Han Solo in Carbonite life-size replica, this is almost as good."

In fact, there are even sites that look down their noses at all the other sites.

"The Star Wars Alliance — Central site of a coalition presenting only the most original, informative Star Wars sites on the WWW."

And then there's the official site: Star Wars: The Official Site ([www.starwars.com/](http://www.starwars.com/)), containing a link to [shop.starwars.com](http://shop.starwars.com), where you can pre-order all the merchandise your heart desires.

The one thing that caught my eye, on an old Star Wars site, was the Star Wars Cookbook. How could you not be intrigued by recipes for Han-Burgers, Yoda Soda, Wookie Cookies, Dark Side Salsa and Death Star Popcorn Balls? May the heartburn be with you.



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